

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2011

**CHIEF JUSTICE KILBRIDE RECOMMENDS APPOINTMENT OF
LASALLE ATTORNEY DOUGLAS GIFT TO CHARACTER AND FITNESS
COMMITTEE**

Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride announced the appointment of LaSalle attorney Douglas A. Gift to the Court's Committee on Character and Fitness. The appointment was made Monday by the Illinois Supreme Court on the recommendation of the Chief Justice.

"It's an honor to be asked by Chief Justice Kilbride and the Supreme Court to serve," said Mr. Gift. "It is important for us as committee members to make sure that law school graduates fulfill all of the requirements to become a practicing lawyer. I'm glad to serve. I'm glad to be a part of it."

The Committee on Character and Fitness is composed of lawyers who sit on panels and evaluate the moral character and general fitness of law school graduates and other applicants before they are issued a license by the Supreme Court to practice law in the state. The process includes review of a lengthy application and questionnaire and, if necessary, interviews and hearings with the applicant.

Mr. Gift is one of 15 panel members who will evaluate applicants from the Third Judicial District, which is comprised of 21 Illinois counties straddling Interstate 80 from Indiana to Iowa. Those counties are: Bureau, Fulton, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Kankakee, Knox, LaSalle, Marshall, McDonough, Mercer, Peoria, Putnam, Rock Island, Stark, Tazewell, Warren, Whiteside and Will.

Mr. Gift serves with the firm of Herbolsheimer, Lannon, Henson, and Duncan P.C. in LaSalle. He has been engaged in a varied practice, including health care and insurance defense. He also represents LaSalle County in civil matters.

Mr. Gift has served in many capacities in the community, including serving on the Utica Planning Commission which worked closely with experts at FEMA during the aftermath of the 2004 Utica tornado. He has also served as past board member of the Illinois Valley YMCA, the LaSalle Rotary Club, and was a founding member of the Utica Garden Club.

MORE

Character and Fitness Committee

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According to Mr. Gift, the proudest accomplishment is his volunteer work with Prairie State Legal Services since the organization opened an office in Ottawa in 1977. He has served on their legal services fund-raising campaign, and as a volunteer attorney.

A 1972 honors graduate of Illinois State University, Mr. Gift received his *juris doctor* degree with honors in 1975 from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Mr. Gift's appointment fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Rock Island attorney Jack L. Leiby and will terminate on December 31, 2013.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)